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ABSTRACT

This report summarizes the ways in which children in developing nations have been adversely affected by their environment and what changes could be made to mitigate these circumstances. Chapter 1 discusses the environment, children, and future generations, pointing out the special needs children have now and will have in the future, the role of children as forces for change, and the economic and social environments children live in. Chapter 2 examines the quality of children's environments from the womb to adolescence to early adulthood, discussing various factors that adversely affect children, such as: (1) substance abuse (by expectant mothers and older children themselves); (2) acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS); (3) air, water, and ground pollution; (4) malnutrition; (5) disease; (6) lack of educational opportunities; (7) work; and (8) warfare. Chapter three discusses achievements and challenges related to improving children's environment in developing nations in the future and sets specific goals for the year 2000, including universal primary education and better economic opportunity; immunization against all major diseases; a 50 percent reduction in infant mortality rates and an increase in life expectancy from age 56 to 65 years; and an end to malnutrition. (Contains 105 references.) (MDM)

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